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2 **2. Description of the Related Art**  
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5       Heretofore a wide variety of golf and golf related  
6 practice devices have been proposed and developed for  
7 improving golf skills. Prior devices have attempted to  
8 provide such practice tools in a variety of different  
9 manners. A significant limitation of all prior devices  
10 however, is that such devices are often cumbersome,  
11 expensive, unreliable, and not particularly convenient for  
12 improving golf skills.  
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15       The present invention provides a golf or divot practice  
16 mat that is convenient to use, reliable, inexpensive to  
17 manufacture, and may be used either inside or outside. The  
18 divot mat of the present invention is easy to use, and  
19 provides instant and reliable feedback on a users golf swing  
20 by leaving a mark on a simulated golf ball imprinted on a  
21 paper or other impressionable surface. The mark which remains  
22 on the paper gives immediate information to the user as to  
23 the quality and characteristic of the swing, and guides the  
24 user to make better contact with a golf ball.  
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1        Although various types of golf practice devices are  
2 known in the prior art, none are directed to a mat having a  
3 surface with simulated printed golf balls which are marked by  
4 the swing of a golf club by the user, thereby indicating  
5 instantly the direction and character of the swing.

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8        The present invention provides a golf or divot practice  
9 mat which is highly efficient at training a user to be a  
10 better golfer. The golf or divot practice mat of the present  
11 invention may be used successfully by beginning golfers,  
12 intermediate level golfers, or expert golfers at any  
13 location, either inside or outside, without the need of any  
14 other equipment or accessories.

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17        Accordingly, it is the primary object of this invention  
18 to provide a divot or golf practice mat with an  
19 impressionable surface having one or more imprinted simulated  
20 golf balls thereon. The impressionable surface is preferably  
21 composed of a no carbon required (NCR) type paper, but may  
22 alternatively be composed of or contain a wax, a carbon  
23 paper, or the like.

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26        Additional objects and advantages of the invention will  
27 be set forth in the description which follows, and in part

1 will be obvious from the description, or may be learned by  
2 practice of the invention. The objects and advantages of the  
3 invention may be realized and obtained by means of the  
4 instrumentality's and combinations particularly pointed out  
5 in the appended claims

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2 **BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

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4 **37 C.F.R. 1.77(a)(8)**

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8 The present invention is a golf or divot practice mat,  
9 comprising a base element and a mark retaining surface  
10 operably secured or mounted to the base element. The mark  
11 retaining surface may be a no carbon required paper, carbon  
12 paper, or wax containing surface, and has one or more  
13 simulated golf balls imprinted thereon. The mark retaining  
14 surface may be secured to the base element by dowels,  
15 adhesives, hook and loop fastening material, or other  
16 fastening mechanism. A mark is left on the mark retaining  
17 surface which instantly records and characterizes a golf  
18 swing, position, and angle of contact with the simulated golf  
19 ball. The practice mat may be conveniently used anywhere,  
20 indoors or outdoors.

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**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

The accompanying drawings, which are incorporated in and constitute a part of the specification, illustrate a preferred embodiment of the invention and, together with a general description given above and the detailed description of the preferred embodiment given below, serve to explain the principles of the invention.

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a golf or divot practice mat using dowels to secure the mark retaining surface to the base element, according to the invention.

Fig. 2 shows a mark retaining means with a plurality of simulated golf balls imprinted thereon, according to the invention.

Fig. 3 is a perspective view of a golf or divot practice mat using adhesives to secure the mark retaining surface to the base element, according to the invention.

Fig. 4 is a perspective view of a golf or divot practice mat using hook and loop fastening elements to secure the mark

1 retaining surface to the base element, according to the  
2 invention.

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**DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION**

**37 C.F.R. 1.77(a)(10)**

Reference will now be made in detail to the present preferred embodiments of the invention as illustrated in the accompanying drawings.

In accordance with the present invention, there is provided a golf or divot practice mat, comprising a base element and a mark retaining surface operably secured or mounted to the base element. The mark retaining surface may be a no carbon required (NCR) paper, carbon paper, or wax containing surface, and has one or more simulated golf balls imprinted thereon. The mark retaining surface may be secured to the base element by dowels, adhesives, hook and loop fastening material, or other fastening mechanism. A mark is left on the mark retaining surface which instantly records and characteristics a golf swing, position, and angle of contact with the simulated golf ball. This allows the user to be made aware of the quality and characteristics of a swing

1 and be trained accordingly. The practice mat may be safely  
2 and conveniently used anywhere, indoors or outdoors.

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5 In Fig. 1, the golf or divot practice mat 10, is shown  
6 according to a preferred embodiment of the invention.  
7 Preferably mat 10, comprises a base element 12, with a  
8 rubber mat 14, for preventing slipping or skidding of the  
9 mat 10, on a surface. Preferably rubber mat 14, is composed  
10 of polyurethane rubber, but other durable resilient materials  
11 may also be used such as soft plastics, cloth, composites or  
12 the like, and is secured to base element 12, by adhesive  
13 printing tape 16, or by adhesives, fasteners such as rivets,  
14 screw, dowels, or the like. A sheet of durable resilient  
15 material 18, such as polycarbonate plastic, provides a firm  
16 support means. However, other durable, resilient materials  
17 may also be used, such as composites, rubber, plastics, wood,  
18 metal, or the like. Preferably sheet 18, is of a  
19 substantially planar configuration, but may be otherwise. For  
20 example, it is possible to provide golf and divot practice  
21 mat 10, in a non-planar configuration, such as a curved,  
22 concave, or convex configuration.

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25 A mark retaining surface means 20, for recording an  
26 impression resulting from contact with a golf club head is  
27 preferably an impression retaining paper such as no carbon



1 required paper (NCR), wax, carbon paper or the like. On the  
2 sureface of mark retaining means 20, are printed or otherwise  
3 impressed, images of one or more golf balls.  
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6 Retaining means for securing and positioning one or more  
7 of sheets of the NCR paper 20, to base element 12, may be  
8 provided as one or more dowels 24, with aperture 25, in sheet  
9 of durable resilient material, 18. As seen in Fig. 1, a  
10 fastening flap 26 of clipboard, composite, plastic, wood,  
11 metal, or other durable material may be drilled and used to  
12 match dowels 25, and prevent paper 20, from ripping out.  
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15 In Fig. 2, a mark retaining surface 20, preferably  
16 composed of a no carbon required (NCR) paper, is shown with a  
17 plurality of simulated golf balls 22 printed thereon.  
18 Alternatively, a carbon paper, a wax impregnated surface, or  
19 the like may be substituted for NCR paper. Also, if desired,  
20 the mark retaining surface may show only one golf ball, or  
21 more than one. A mark 35, is immediately made on mark  
22 retaining surface by contact with the head or other part of a  
23 golf club, and provides immediate insight to the user as to  
24 the angle, quality, and characteristic of the swing of the  
25 golf club.  
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1 Referring now to Fig. 3, an alternative embodiment of  
2 golf or divot practice mat 10, is shown with an adhesive  
3 layer 28, securing the mark retaining surface 20, that is,  
4 preferably a plurality of sheets of NCR paper, to base  
5 element 20.

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8 With reference now to Fig. 4, another embodiment of  
9 golf or divot practice mat 10, is shown. In this example,  
10 hook and loop fastening elements 30, are used, to secure the  
11 plurality of sheets of NCR paper to base element 12.

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14 In operation and use golf or divot practice mat 10, is  
15 easy to use, convenient, and very efficient for improving a  
16 users golf swing. Golf and divot practice mat 10, may be used  
17 indoors or outdoors, and is a very cost effective practice  
18 means. To use golf and divot practice mat 10, the user simply  
19 places the mat on a suitable surface, such as a floor, a  
20 deck, a lawn, or the like, and commences practice. The used  
21 sheets of NCR paper or other mark retaining surface, may be  
22 kept as a record and compared with later sheets to note  
23 improvement.

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26 As is evident from the above description, a wide variety  
27 of bags may be configured for many different applications from

1 the description given herein and additional advantages and  
2 modifications will readily occur to those skilled in the art.  
3 The invention in its broader aspects is, therefore, not  
4 limited to the specific details, representative apparatus and  
5 illustrative examples shown and described. Accordingly,  
6 departures from such details may be made without departing  
7 from the spirit or scope of the applicant's general inventive  
8 concept